Case 2:11-cv-06826-JP Document 1 Filed 11/01/11 Page 1 of 11 CIVIL COVER SHEET

SJS 44 (Rev. 12/07, NJ 5/08)

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the control of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the court for the purpose of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the court for the purpose of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the court for the purpose of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the court for the purpose of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the court for the purpose of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the court for the purpose of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the court for the purpose of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the United States in September 1974, is required for the United States in September 1974, is required for the United States in September 1974, is required for the United States in September 1974, is required for the United States in September 1974, is required for the United States in September 1974, is required

the civil docket sheet. (SEE I	NSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)		•		
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFENDANTS		
CHERYL O'TOOLE			NCO FINANCIA	AL SYSTEMS, INC.	
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff			County of Residence of First Listed Defendant		
(c) Attorney's (Firm Na Craig Thor Kimmel, E Kimmel & Silverman, 30 E. Butler Pike Ambler, PA 19002 (215) 540-8888 II. BASIS OF JURISE	P.C.	III. CI	LAND	D CONDEMNATION CASES, U INVOLVED. PRINCIPAL PARTIES	SE THE LOCATION OF THE (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)
U.S. Government Plaintiff	■ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)		en of This State	IF DEF 1 □ 1 Incorporated or Pr of Business In Thi	is State
2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)	Citize	en of Another State on or Subject of a reign Country	2	•
IV. NATURE OF SUI	T (Place an "X" in One Box Only)		ioign country		
CONTRACT	TORTS	FC	ORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
☐ 110 Insurance ☐ 120 Marine ☐ 130 Miller Act ☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument ☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment	Slander □ 368 Asbestos Personal Liability □ 1340 Marine Product Liability □ 370 Other Fraud Liability □ 371 Truth in Lending Liability □ 371 Truth in Lending Liability □ 385 Motor Vehicle □ 380 Other Personal Property Damage Product Liability □ 385 Property Damage		0 Agriculture 10 Other Food & Drug 15 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 0 Liquor Laws 0 R.R. & Truck 10 Airline Regs. 10 Occupational Safety/Health 10 Other LABOR 0 Fair Labor Standards Act 0 Labor/Mgmt. Relations 0 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act 0 Railway Labor Act 0 Other Labor Litigation 1 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act IMMIGRATION 2 Naturalization Application 3 Habeas Corpus Actions	□ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 □ 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS □ 820 Copyrights □ 830 Patent □ 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY □ 861 HIA (1395ff) □ 862 Black Lung (923) □ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) □ 864 SSID Title XVI □ 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS □ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) □ 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	□ 400 State Reapportionment □ 410 Antitrust □ 430 Banks and Banking □ 450 Commerce □ 460 Deportation □ 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations ■ 480 Consumer Credit □ 490 Cable/Sat TV □ 810 Selective Service □ 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange □ 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410 □ 890 Other Statutory Actions □ 891 Agricultural Acts □ 892 Economic Stabilization Act □ 893 Environmental Matters □ 894 Energy Allocation Act □ 895 Freedom of Information Act □ 900 Appeal of Fee Determinatio Under Equal Access to Justice □ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
V. ORIGIN Proceeding (Place an "X" in One Box Only) R I Original Proceeding 2 Removed from Appellate Court Appellate Court 4 Reinstated or State Court 5 Transferred from another district (specify) Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity): Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):					
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION Brief description of cause: Fair Debt Collection Practices Act					
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23	DI	EMAND \$	CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND:	if demanded in complaint:
VIII. RELATED CAS	E(S) (See instructions): JUDGE			DOCKET NUMBER	
10-31-	. []	- f.			

DATE

Case 2:11-cv-0682614ED SPAUES INTRICAL 44/01/11 Page 2 of 11

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to appropriate calendar. Address of Plaintiff: 33 GIOVENOC St. Cranston R.J. 02920				
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction:				
(Use Reverse Side For Add	itional Space)			
Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation and (Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a))	any publicly held corporation owning 10% or more of its stock?			
Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities?	Yes□ No□			
RELATED CASE, IF ANY: Case Number: Judge	Date Terminated:			
Case Number:Juage	Date Terminated:			
Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions:				
1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year	/			
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit	Yes□ No□			
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit action in this court?	pending or within one year previously terminated			
	Yes□ No□			
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier num				
terminated action in this court?	Yes No P			
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights ca	ase filed by the same individual?			
	Yes No No			
CIVIL: (Place ✓ in ONE CATEGORY ONLY)				
A. Federal Question Cases:	B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:			
1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts	1. ☐ Insurance Contract and Other Contracts			
2. □ FELA	2. ☐ Airplane Personal Injury			
3. □ Jones Act-Personal Injury	3. □ Assault, Defamation			
4. □ Antitrust	4. □ Marine Personal Injury			
5. Patent	5. ☐ Motor Vehicle Personal Injury			
6. □ Labor-Management Relations	6. □ Other Personal Injury (Please			
7. □ Civil Rights	specify) 7. □ Products Liability			
8. Habeas Corpus	8. □ Products Liability — Asbestos			
9. □ Securities Act(s) Cases	9. □ All other Diversity Cases			
10. □ Social Security Review Cases	•			
11. All other Federal Question Cases \$ 15 U.S.C \$ 1692				
(Please specify) ARBITRATION CERTIFI	CATION			
I, (Check Appropriate Category), counsel of record do hereby certify:	ory)			
Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and beli	ef, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of			
\$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs;				
Relief other than monetary damages is sought.	~ 7:01)			
DATE: 10-31-11 Craig / NCK immel				
Attorney-at-Law NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there h	Attorney I.D.#			
NOIE: A mature novo win or a trial by jury only if there n	as occii compnance with r.k.C.r. 38.			
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or with	nin one year previously terminated action in this court			
except as noted above.	17.00			
DATE: 1031-11 Crary Martin mel	5 1100			
Attorney-at-Law	Attorney I.D.#			

CIV. 609 (6/08)

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

Cheryl O'Toole : CIVIL	ACTION			
NCO Financial Systems, Inc. No.				
In accordance with the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan of this plaintiff shall complete a Case Management Track Designation Form in all civil filing the complaint and serve a copy on all defendants. (See § 1:03 of the plan set side of this form.) In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plain designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of the plaintiff and all other parties, a Case Management Track Designation Form s to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned.	cases at the time of forth on the reverse ntiff regarding said f court and serve on			
SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CASE MANAGEMENT TRACKS:				
(a) Habeas Corpus – Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 through § 2255.	()			
(b) Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of H and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits.	Health ()			
(c) Arbitration – Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2.				
(d) Asbestos – Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from exposure to asbestos.				
(e) Special Management – Cases that do not fall into tracks (a) through (d) that a commonly referred to as complex and that need special or intense management the court. (See reverse side of this form for a detailed explanation of special management cases.)	ent by			
(f) Standard Management – Cases that do not fall into any one of the other track	cs. ()			
10-31-11 Crury Ther Krmine Chery C Date Attorney-at-law Attorney for	Jule for			
215-540-8888 877-788-2864 Kommela	ocreditlaw.com			

E-Mail Address

FAX Number

(Civ. 660) 10/02

Telephone

1. 2. 3. 4.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CHERYL O'TOOLE,)
Plaintiff)
v.) Case No.:
NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INC.,) COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR
Defendant) JURY TRIAL)
) (Unlawful Debt Collection Practices)

COMPLAINT

CHERYL O'TOOLE ("Plaintiff"), by and through her attorneys, KIMMEL & SILVERMAN, P.C., alleges the following against NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INC. ("Defendant"):

INTRODUCTION

1. Plaintiff's Complaint is based on the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq. ("FDCPA").

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 2. Jurisdiction of this court arises pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d), which states that such actions may be brought and heard before "any appropriate United States district court without regard to the amount in controversy," and 28 U.S.C. § 1331 grants this court original jurisdiction of all civil actions arising under the laws of the United States.
- 3. Defendant has its corporate headquarters in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and as such, personal jurisdiction is established.
 - 4. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1).

PARTIES

- 5. Plaintiff is a natural person residing in Cranston, Rhode Island.
- 6. Plaintiff is a "consumer" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(3).
- 7. Defendant is a national debt collection company with its corporate headquarters located at 507 Prudential Road, Horsham, PA 19044.
- 8. Defendant is a "debt collector" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6), and repeatedly contacted Plaintiff in an attempt to collect a debt.
- 9. Defendant acted through its agents, employees, officers, members, directors, heirs, successors, assigns, principals, trustees, sureties, subrogees, representatives, and insurers.

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

- 10. The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act ("FDCPA") is a comprehensive statute, which prohibits a catalog of activities in connection with the collection of debts by third parties. See 15 U.S.C. § 1692 *et seq*. The FDCPA imposes civil liability on any person or entity that violates its provisions, and establishes general standards of debt collector conduct, defines abuse, and provides for specific consumer rights. 15 U.S.C. § 1692k.
- 11. The operative provisions of the FDCPA declare certain rights to be provided to or claimed by debtors, forbid deceitful and misleading practices, prohibit harassing and abusive tactics, and proscribe unfair or unconscionable conduct, both generally and in a specific list of disapproved practices.
- 12. In particular, the FDCPA broadly enumerates several practices considered contrary to its stated purpose, and forbids debt collectors from taking such action. The substantive heart of the FDCPA lies in three broad prohibitions. First, a "debt collector may not engage in any conduct the natural consequence of which is to harass, oppress, or abuse any

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person in connection with the collection of a debt." 15 U.S.C. § 1692d. Second, a "debt collector may not use any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt." 15 U.S.C. § 1692e. And third, a "debt collector may not use unfair or unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect any debt." 15 U.S.C. § 1692f. The FDCPA is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous collectors, whether or not there exists a valid debt, broadly prohibits unfair or unconscionable collection methods, conduct which harasses, oppresses or abuses any debtor, and any false, deceptive or misleading statements in connection with the collection of a debt.

- In enacting the FDCPA, the United States Congress found that "[t]here is 13. abundant evidence of the use of abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection practices by many debt collectors," which "contribute to the number of personal bankruptcies, to marital instability, to the loss of jobs, and to invasions of individual privacy." 15 U.S.C. § 1692a. Congress additionally found existing laws and procedures for redressing debt collection injuries to be inadequate to protect consumers. 15 U.S.C. § 1692b.
- 14. Congress enacted the FDCPA to regulate the collection of consumer debts by debt The express purposes of the FDCPA are to "eliminate abusive debt collection practices by debt collectors, to insure that debt collectors who refrain from using abusive debt collection practices are not competitively disadvantaged, and to promote consistent State action to protect consumers against debt collection abuses." 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 16. At all pertinent times hereto, Defendant was hired to collect a consumer debt and attempted to collect that debt from Plaintiff.
- 17. The debt arose out of transactions that were primarily for personal, family, or household purposes.
- 18. Beginning in or around May 2011, and continuing through September 2011, Defendant continuously and repeatedly contacted Plaintiff on her cellular telephone in an attempt to collect a debt.
- 19. At first, Defendant called and left multiple messages on Plaintiff's voicemail in its attempts to collect the alleged debt.
- 20. However, Defendant did not send Plaintiff notification of her rights to dispute the debt and/or request verification of the debt until on or after June 24, 2011. See Exhibit A, Defendant's June 24, 2011, correspondence to Plaintiff.
- 21. Around this same time, Plaintiff spoke with Defendant and demanded that Defendant stop calling her about this debt.
- 22. It was inconvenient for Plaintiff to receive Defendant's collection calls to her cellular phone, as she carried her cellular phone with her at all times, including while she was at work, and the collection calls disrupted her daily life activities.
- 23. Despite Plaintiff's unambiguous directive to cease contact by cellular telephone, Defendant continued to do so on a repetitive and continuous basis.
- 24. For more than two (2) months, Defendant contacted Plaintiff nearly on a daily basis.
 - 25. On days calls were received, at least two (2) were received, sometimes as many

as four (4) were received.

- 26. Defendant intended to harass Plaintiff in a systematic fashion, knowing that such contact was unwanted and knowing that disregard of her instructions would cause injury, stress, fear and humiliation, but would substantially increase the likelihood of the debt being paid.
- 27. The repetitive calls to Plaintiff were intended by Defendant to be disturbing, harassing, and an invasion of privacy.

CONSTRUCTION OF APPLICABLE LAW

- 28. The FDCPA is a strict liability statute. <u>Taylor v. Perrin, Landry, deLaunay & Durand</u>, 103 F.3d 1232 (5th Cir. 1997). "Because the Act imposes strict liability, a consumer need not show intentional conduct by the debt collector to be entitled to damages." <u>Russell v. Equifax A.R.S.</u>, 74 F. 3d 30 (2d Cir. 1996); <u>see also Gearing v. Check Brokerage Corp.</u>, 233 F.3d 469 (7th Cir. 2000) (holding unintentional misrepresentation of debt collector's legal status violated FDCPA); <u>Clomon v. Jackson</u>, 988 F. 2d 1314 (2d Cir. 1993).
- 29. The FDCPA is a remedial statute, and therefore must be construed liberally in favor of the debtor. Sprinkle v. SB&C Ltd., 472 F. Supp. 2d 1235 (W.D. Wash. 2006). The remedial nature of the FDCPA requires that courts interpret it liberally. Clark v. Capital Credit & Collection Services, Inc., 460 F. 3d 1162 (9th Cir. 2006). "Because the FDCPA, like the Truth in Lending Act (TILA) 15 U.S.C §1601 et seq., is a remedial statute, it should be construed liberally in favor of the consumer." Johnson v. Riddle, 305 F. 3d 1107 (10th Cir. 2002).
- 30. The FDCPA is to be interpreted in accordance with the "least sophisticated" consumer standard. See Jeter v. Credit Bureau, Inc., 760 F.2d 1168 (11th Cir. 1985); Graziano v. Harrison, 950 F. 2d 107 (3rd Cir. 1991); Swanson v. Southern Oregon Credit Service, Inc.,

869 F.2d 1222 (9th Cir. 1988). The FDCPA was not "made for the protection of experts, but for the public - that vast multitude which includes the ignorant, the unthinking, and the credulous, and the fact that a false statement may be obviously false to those who are trained and experienced does not change its character, nor take away its power to deceive others less experienced." Id. The least sophisticated consumer standard serves a dual purpose in that it ensures protection of all consumers, even naive and trusting, against deceptive collection practices, and protects collectors against liability for bizarre or idiosyncratic interpretations of collection notices. Clomon, 988 F. 2d at 1318.

COUNT I DEFENDANT VIOLATED THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

- 31. In its actions to collect a debt, Defendant violated the FDCPA in one or more of the following ways:
 - a. Defendant violated the FDCPA generally;
 - b. Defendant violated §1692c(a)(1) of the FDCPA when it communicated with Plaintiff at a time or place that it knew or should have known was inconvenient;
 - c. Defendant violated §1692d of the FDCPA when it harassed, oppressed or abused Plaintiff in connection with the collection of a debt;
 - d. Defendant violated §1692d(5) of the FDCPA when it caused Plaintiff's telephone to ring repeatedly or continuously with the intent to annoy Plaintiff;
 - e. Defendant violated §1692f of the FDCPA when it used unfair and unconscionable means in connection with the collection of a debt; and
 - f. Defendant violated §1692g(a) when it failed to send Plaintiff the required

notice regarding her rights under the FDCPA within five days of its initial communication with Plaintiff.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, CHERYL O'TOOLE, respectfully prays for a judgment as follows:

- a. All actual damages suffered pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1);
- b. Statutor y damages of \$1,000.00 for the violation of the FDCPA pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(2)(A);
- c. All reasonable attorneys' fees, witness fees, court costs and other litigation costs incurred by Plaintiff pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1693k(a)(3); and
- d. Any other relief deemed appropriate by this Honorable Court.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Plaintiff, CHERYL O'TOOLE, demands a jury trial in this case.

Date: 10-31-11

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

By:

Craig Thor Kimmel Attorney ID No. 57100

Tara L. Patterson

Attorney ID No. 88343

Kimmel & Silverman, P.C.

30 E. Butler Pike

Ambler, PA 19002

Phone: (215) 540-8888 Fax: (877) 788-2864

Email:

kimmel@creditlaw.com

Email:

tpatterson@creditlaw.com

PO Box 12100 DEPT 64 Trenton, NJ 08650

4740 Baxter Road Virginia Beach, VA 23462

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462-57



5199VK CHERYL OTOOLE •

OFFICE HOURS(ET): 8AM-10:30PM MON THRU THURSDAY 8AM-9PM FRIDAY 8AM-5PM SATURDAY 2PM-9PM SUNDAY Jun 24, 2011

NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INC

CREDITOR: Credit One Bank, N.A. ACCOUNT # 5641

REFERENCE #:5199VK TOTAL BALANCE: \$398.63

MINIMUM PAYMENT AMOUNT: \$ 125.00

Dear CHERYL OTOOLE:

Please be advised that NCO Financial Systems, Inc. has been requested by Credit One Bank, N.A. to assist them in collection of the above minimum payment amount.

You may contact us at 1-877-825-3242 if you have any questions or if you would like to discuss this account further. Calls to or from this company may be monitored or recorded for quality assurance.

Please include the above account number on your check or money order and enclose the bottom portion of this letter, or a copy thereof, with your payment to insure proper credit. You may also make your payment online, at www.creditonebank.com.

Unless you notify this office within thirty (30) days after receipt of this notice, that you dispute the validity of the debt, or any portion thereof, the debt will be assumed to be valid by this office. If you notify this office in writing within the thirty (30) day period after receiving this notice that the debt, or any portion thereof, is disputed, this office will obtain verification of the debt or a copy of a judgment against you and a copy of such verification or judgment will be mailed to you by this office. If you send this office a written request within the thirty (30) day period after receiving this notice, this office will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor.

This is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. This is a communication from a debt collector.

PLEASE RETURN THIS PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT (MAKE SURE ADDRESS SHOWS THROUGH WINDOW)

Account # Minimum Payment Amount
5641 \$ 125.00

CHERYL OTOOLE
Payment Amount

\$

Check here if your address or phone number has changed and provide the new information below.

Make Payment To:

Payment Services
PO Box 60500

City of Industry CA 91716-0500



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